SaskPower Severance Pay Credits Plan

Annual Report for 2016

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Letters of Transmittal

Her Honour, The Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report of the SaskPower Severance Pay Credits Plan for the year ending December 31, 2016.

Kevin Doherty
Minister of Finance

The Honourable Kevin Doherty
Minister of Finance

Sir:

On behalf of the Public Employees Benefits Agency, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report of the SaskPower Severance Pay Credits Plan for the year ending December 31, 2016.

Dave Wild
Associate Deputy Minister
Public Employees Benefits Agency
Ministry of Finance

Introduction

The Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SaskPower; the Corporation) established the SaskPower Severance Pay Credits Plan (the Plan) for the purpose of providing severance benefits to SaskPower employees.

The Plan is not registered as a pension plan under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). The Corporation has not established a trust nor does it hold property for the specific purpose of providing benefits to the Participants. Benefits are funded out of current operations of the Corporation.

On January 13, 2004, an Order in Council designated the Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA) as the administrator of the Plan.

Participants

The Plan consists of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), UNIFOR, and Management employees. As of December 31, the following number of Participants were eligible to receive benefits from each type of severance benefit payable under the Plan.

Benefit Type	Participants (# of)
Pre-1996*	652
Post-1995*	708
Pre-2005**	248
Post-2005**	122

* Includes both IBEW and Management employees
** Includes UNIFOR employees

Benefits

The following describes the various types of severance benefits payable on retirement, termination or death for all Participants under the Plan:

a) Pre-1996 severance pay credits are benefits provided to IBEW and Management employees for company service time prior to January 1, 1996.

b) Post-1995 severance pay credits are benefits provided to IBEW and Management employees for company service time after January 1, 1996.

c) Pre-2005 severance pay credits are benefits provided to UNIFOR employees for company service time prior to February 1, 2005.

d) Post-2005 severance pay credits are benefits provided to UNIFOR employees for company service time after February 1, 2005.

e) For those employees who voluntarily opted out of the Millennium Registered Retirement Savings Plan (MRRSP) due to insufficient RRSP contribution room, any eligible company service will be paid out under the provisions of the Plan document.

Each Participant receives five days per year of service at their hourly rate of pay in effect at retirement, termination or death based on the number of hours worked per day.

Upon termination of active service, Participants elect how severance benefits are to be paid. In the event of termination of service, SaskPower, on behalf of the Plan, may pay a Participant's severance benefits in a lump sum.

Management's Report

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

As administrators of the SaskPower Severance Pay Credits Plan, we are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the following financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Pension Plans as outlined in the CPA Canada Handbook, section 4600, pension plans. For matters not addressed in section 4600, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) have been followed.

The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are fully and fairly disclosed in the financial statements.

The SaskPower Severance Pay Credits Plan has a system of internal control adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the accounts are faithfully and properly kept to permit the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for pension plans.

Enclosed are the financial statements of the SaskPower Severance Pay Credits Plan for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the Provincial Auditor's report on these financial statements.

Regina, Saskatchewan
March 28, 2017

Dave Wild
Associate Deputy Minister
Public Employees Benefits Agency
Ministry of Finance

Actuarial Opinion

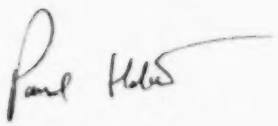
With respect of the various Saskatchewan Power Corporation Severance Programs, I have prepared a valuation as at September 30, 2016, with a subsequent extrapolation to December 31, 2016, for the purpose of determining actuarial information in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, IAS 19 - Revised. In addition, I have performed a reconciliation of the accrued liability for 2016.

In my opinion, for the purpose of this actuarial extrapolation:

- The membership data on which the valuation and subsequent extrapolation is based are sufficient and reliable;
- The assumptions are appropriate; and
- The calculations have been made in accordance of my understanding of the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards IAS 19 - Revised.

Nonetheless, emerging experience differing from the assumptions will result in gains or losses which will be revealed in subsequent extrapolations.

This report has been prepared and this actuarial opinion has been given in accordance with accepted actuarial practice in Canada.



Paul Hebert
Fellow, Society of Actuaries
Fellow, Canadian Institute of Actuaries

January 16, 2017

Saskatchewan Power Corporation Severance Pay Credits Plan

Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2016

Independent Auditor's Report

To: The Members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation Severance Pay Credits Plan, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2016, and the statement of changes in accrued benefits obligation for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans for Treasury Board's approval, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation Severance Pay Credits Plan as at December 31, 2016, and the changes in accrued benefits obligation for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans.

Judy Ferguson

Regina, Saskatchewan
March 28, 2017

Judy Ferguson, FCPA, FCA
Provincial Auditor

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Saskatchewan Power Corporation Severance Pay Credits Plan **Statement 1**
Statement of Financial Position

(in thousands)

As at December 31	2016	2015
Assets		
SaskPower Contribution Receivable (Note 4)	$ 18,104	$ 19,862
Total Assets	18,104	19,862
Net Assets Available for Benefits	18,104	19,862
Accrued Benefits Obligation (Note 4)	18,104	19,862
Surplus	$ -	$ -

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Saskatchewan Power Corporation Severance Pay Credits Plan **Statement 2**
Statement of Changes in Accrued Benefits Obligation

For the Year Ended December 31

	(in thousands) 2016	2015
Increase in Accrued Benefits Obligation		
Interest on Accrued Benefits Obligation	$ 603	$ 662
Changes in Actuarial Assumptions	68	54
Experience Losses (Note 4)	177	-
Benefits Accrued	12	19
Total Increase in Accrued Benefits Obligation	860	735
Decrease in Accrued Benefits Obligation		
Employee Termination Benefits	2,618	2,019
Experience Gains (Note 4)	-	233
Total Decrease in Accrued Benefits Obligation	2,618	2,252
Net Decrease in Accrued Benefits Obligation	(1,758)	(1,517)
Accrued Benefits Obligation, Beginning of Year	19,862	21,379
Accrued Benefits Obligation, End of Year	$ 18,104	$ 19,862

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Saskatchewan Power Corporation Severance Pay Credits Plan
Notes to the Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

1. Description of the Plan

The Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SaskPower; the Corporation) established the SaskPower Severance Pay Credits Plan (the Plan) for the purpose of providing severance benefits to SaskPower employees.

The Plan is not registered as a pension plan under the *Income Tax Act (Canada)*. The Corporation has not established a trust nor does it hold property for the specific purpose of providing benefits to the Participants. Benefits are funded out of current operations of the Corporation.

On January 13, 2004, an Order in Council designated the Public Employees Benefits Agency (PEBA) as the administrator of the Plan. PEBA continues to be the administrator of this Plan under Order in Council 581-2015.

The following description is a summary only. For more complete information, reference should be made to the Plan document.

Participants

The Plan consists of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), UNIFOR, and Management employees. The following numbers of participants were eligible to receive benefits from each type of severance benefit payable under the Plan.

	2016	2015
Pre-1996*	652	723
Post-1995*	708	692
Pre-2005**	248	278
Post-2005**	122	136

* Includes both IBEW and Management employees
** Includes UNIFOR employees

Benefits

The following describes the various types of severance benefits payable on retirement, termination or death for all Participants under the Plan:

a) Pre-1996 severance pay credits are benefits provided to IBEW and Management employees for company service time prior to January 1, 1996.

b) Post-1995 severance pay credits are benefits provided to IBEW and Management employees for company service time after January 1, 1996.

c) Pre-2005 severance pay credits are benefits provided to UNIFOR employees for company service time prior to February 1, 2005.

d) Post-2005 severance pay credits are benefits provided to UNIFOR employees for company service time after February 1, 2005.

e) For those employees who voluntarily opted out of the Millennium Registered Retirement Savings Plan (MRRSP) due to insufficient RRSP contribution room, any eligible company service will be paid out under the provisions of the Plan document.

Each Participant receives five days per year of service at their hourly rate of pay in effect at retirement, termination or death based on the number of hours worked per day for management and as specified in the collective bargaining agreements for IBEW and UNIFOR employees.

Upon termination of active service, Participants elect how severance benefits are to be paid. In the event of termination of service, SaskPower, on behalf of the Plan, may pay a Participant's severance benefits in a lump sum.

2. Basis of Preparation and Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for pension plans as outlined in the CPA Handbook, section 4600, Pension Plans. For matters not addressed in Section 4600, International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) have been followed.

The following accounting policies are considered significant:

a) Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, with the exception of the accrued benefits obligation (Note 2(c)).

b) Financial instruments

All financial instruments are measured at fair value on initial recognition and recorded on the statement of financial position. Financial instruments classified as loans and receivables are subsequently measured at amortized cost. The SaskPower contribution receivable, a financial instrument, has been classified in the loans and receivable category. The fair value of this receivable is its carrying value.

c) Accrued benefits obligation

The accrued benefits obligation and cost of severance benefits are determined using the projected benefit method pro-rated on service.

d) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new IFRS standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are not yet effective for the year ended December 31, 2016, and have not yet been applied in preparing these financial statements. None of these are expected to have a significant effect on the financial statements on the Plan.

3. Financial Risk Management

The nature of the Plan's operations results in a statement of financial position that consists entirely of financial assets and liabilities. As benefits are funded out of current operations of SaskPower, the Plan's financial risks relate primarily to credit risk. The maximum credit risk to which it is exposed at December 31, 2016, is limited to the carrying value of its contributions receivable from SaskPower.

4. Accrued Benefits Obligation

The accrued benefits obligation of the Plan is receivable from SaskPower and will be funded by SaskPower as participants begin receiving their benefits. The present value of the accrued benefits obligation was determined using the projected benefits method pro-rated on service and the best estimate assumptions of SaskPower's management. Experience gains (losses) result from actual experience differing from that expected and are recognized as an increase or decrease in the accrued benefits obligation.

An actuarial valuation was performed by Aon Hewitt (Aon) as at September 30 for both 2015 and 2016, to determine the actuarial present value of the accrued benefits obligation and is extrapolated by Aon to December 31 of each year. The next actuarial valuation is expected to be performed at September 30, 2017, and extrapolated to December 31, 2017.

The accrued benefits obligation is based on many assumptions about future events. Actual experience may vary significantly from the long-term assumptions used. The significant long-term actuarial assumptions adopted in measuring SaskPower's accrued benefits obligation at December 31 are:

	2016	2015
Discount Rate, Beginning of Year	3.25%	3.25%
Discount Rate, End of Year	3.25%	3.25%
Promotional Earnings Increases (Management)	1.40%	1.40%
Promotional Earnings Increases (IBEW and UNIFOR)	0.70%	0.70%
Termination Rate	0.90%	0.90%
Long-Term Rate of Compensation Increases	2.00%	2.00%
Remaining Service Life – Pre-1996 (years)	4.00	4.30
Remaining Service Life – Post-1995 (years)	17.80	18.40
Remaining Service Life – Pre-2005 (years)	7.00	7.40
Remaining Service Life – Post-2005 (years)	21.80	22.80
Duration (combined years)	3.60	3.60

The actuarial present value of the accrued benefits obligation is long-term in nature and there is no market for settling this obligation. Therefore, determination of the fair value is not practicable.

If the discount rate was increased by one per cent, the impact would be a 3.3 per cent decrease to the accrued benefits obligation at December 31, 2016. Conversely, if the long-term rate of compensation was increased by one per cent, the impact would be a 3.8 per cent increase to the accrued benefits obligation at December 31, 2016.

5. Related Parties

SaskPower and PEBA are related by virtue of common control by the Government of Saskatchewan.

The Plan has received the use of office space and administrative services from SaskPower at no charge. Additionally, PEBA provides administrative services to the Plan for an administration fee which is paid by SaskPower.

6. Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

A statement of changes in net assets available for benefits has not been presented in these financial statements as the information is readily available in the statements and the notes thereto.